

Uninsulated Hot Surface Leads to Skin Burn



IPS Control: 1664700

Location:

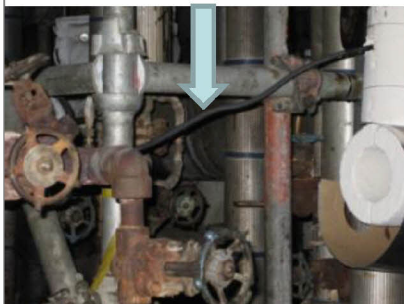
Richmond Refinery

Contact Information:

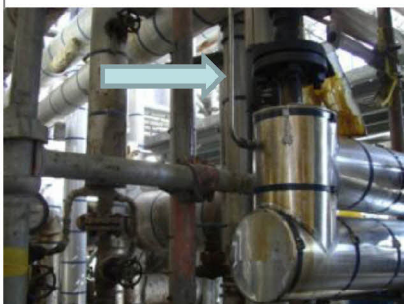
Chris Haswell

510-242-1225

hasb@chevron.com



BEFORE: Uninsulated steam tracing line below 7 feet.



AFTER: Steam tracing line rerouted above 7 feet.

See the Hazard – YOU are too precious to lose. Our vision is that we all go home safely every day.

Incident Description:

On October 6, 2009, while conducting routine pump checks, an operator was burned on the neck when he inadvertently contacted an uninsulated steam tracing line. Emergency services were called and first aid treatment was given.

Investigation Findings:

- 1) The surface temperature of the steam tracing line was greater than 140°F.
- 2) The steam tracing line was uninsulated and less than 7 feet above the ground. The line was later rerouted above 7 feet.
- 3) The work order was signed off as complete although the work on the steam tracing line was incomplete.
- 4) The work area was congested with staging and insulation materials from other ongoing jobs.
- 5) The operator performed a pre-task LPSA. He ducked under the uninsulated steam tracing line to access the pump but contacted his neck on the line when he was backing out of the area.
- 6) The operator did not use Stop Work Authority.

Lessons Learned:

- 1) All surfaces below 7 feet with temperatures at or exceeding 140°F must be insulated or guarded (by distance or shielding) against contact to prevent skin burns.
- 2) All steam tracing lines must conform to the requirements in their work orders.
- 3) Work areas should be cleaned at the end of each shift and at the end of the project.
- 4) Incomplete LPSAs and unrecognized hazards can lead to injuries.

Recommendations:

- 1) Ensure all work is complete prior to signing off a job.
- 2) Don't accept work that does not conform to the work order.
- 3) If items aren't getting fixed, immediately contact your supervisor.
- 4) Perform LPSAs before, during, and after a task.
- 5) Use Stop Work Authority if you think a task is unsafe.

Tenets of Operations Violated:

- 1) Tenet 3 – Always ensure safety devices are in place and functioning
- 2) Tenet 8 – Always address abnormal conditions
- 3) Tenet 10 – Always involve the right people in decisions that affect procedures and equipment

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